

August 1, 2002

TO: FAMILY PACT PROGRAM PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: FAMILY PACT PROGRAM LETTER 02-02, PROVISION OF  
EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

This letter is being sent by the Office of Family Planning (OFP) to clarify policies related to emergency contraception (EC). In the Family PACT (Planning, Access, Care and Treatment) Program clients shall have routine, preventative access to EC.

The attached Clinical Practice Alert has been developed to clarify and remind Family PACT providers that EC is included in the Family PACT Program Standards (Policy, Procedures, and Billing Instructions, August 2001, Section 9, p. 4, Item E) as a family planning method option that is required to be made available on-site or by prescription. OFP recommends that clients leave their clinic visit with either the medication or a prescription so it is available when needed. Such advance access to EC is considered "... recognized medical practice standard..."; the criteria of practice expected by OFP according to the previous citation.

The goal of OFP is to ensure that barriers do not prohibit clients from receiving timely EC. It is expected that all Family PACT enrolled providers and associated practitioners include this method in services offered and provided to all Family PACT clients. Furthermore, each provider is requested to develop and implement an office protocol to ensure office staffs do provide prompt access to the client who needs timely intervention in order to prevent unintended pregnancy.



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Please share this letter with all staff involved with services to Family PACT Program clients. You may contact Janet N. Treat, P.H.N., M.N., Chief, Clinical Services Section at (916) 654-0357 with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Anna Ramírez, M.P.H., Chief  
Office of Family Planning

Enclosure